

REMARKS

The Examiner is requested to please note the change in docket number from THE 0243 PUS to "2002P00193US" in further correspondence.

The Examiner objected to the drawings and the specification for failing to include reference characters associated with the "internal elements" which cooperate with the "indexer". These elements are the splines 38 on the stem 36 and the splines 78 inside the threaded sleeve 72, now properly illustrated on the amended drawings submitted herewith for the Examiner's approval. The elements are clearly illustrated interlocking in Figs. 6a and 6b. One minor correction is included to Fig. 1 to be consistent with the specification and the elements and minor corrections are also shown in corrections to Figs. 2 and 3. The attached amended drawings should clearly obviate the Examiner's objections to the specification and drawings.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings for failure to show the recess in the peripheral wall as claimed in Claim 2, which has been canceled from Claim 2 to obviate the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite for lack of antecedent basis in independent claim 1, lines 3 and 5. Claim 1 now has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis as suggested by the Examiner and the 35 U.S.C. § 112 now should be obviated.

The Examiner rejected Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Berkholder '523. Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled and independent Claim 7 now has been amended to include a plurality of fingers with a plurality of ports

on each side of each finger and also to include a plurality of splines on both of the collar and stem interlocking with one another. This structure is not disclosed or suggested in Berkholder '523, which does not include a plurality of fingers in the port members 14, 15. Berkholder '523 also does not include a plurality of splines on both of the collar and stem interlocking with one another, but only includes a single alignment member 26 to engage the flow plate 3. Independent Claim 7 now should clearly be allowable over Berkholder '523.

The Examiner rejected Claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Jp '929. Jp '929 also does not include a plurality of fingers with a plurality of ports on each side of each finger and also a plurality of splines on both of the collar and stem interlocking with one another as now claimed in amended Claim 7. Independent Claim 7 now should also clearly be allowable over Jp '929.

The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over the combination of Meslif '168 in view of Jp '113. Meslif '168 has notches (flame ports) 12 "arranged on one side only" of the asymmetrical legs as illustrated in Fig. 3. The structure as disclosed could not include ports on both sides of the legs and such a structure is not disclosed or suggested in Meslif '168. Jp '113 has vertical gas holding grooves 53, but does not disclose or suggest the laterally scalloped lip as more clearly defined in Claim 6. The 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection over the combination of Meslif '168 in view of Jp '113 now also should be obviated and Claims 1-6 now should also clearly be allowable.

The Examiner rejected Claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over the combination of Jp '929 in

view of Meslif '168. Claims 10 and 11 depend from amended Claim 7 and should be allowable for the reasons previously set forth in response to the separate 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections of Jp '929 and Meslif '168.

The Examiner rejected Claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over the combination of Huang '436 and Saleri '207. Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled and Claim 12 has been amended to include the head support including a first indexer including a plurality of splines and the support including a second indexer including a plurality of splines interlocking with said first indexer plurality of splines. Neither Huang '436 nor Saleri '207 disclose the claimed plurality of interlocking splines. Independent Claim 12 now should clearly be allowable over Huang '436 and Saleri '207.

The undersigned realized that an Information Disclosure Statement including form 1449 and copies of the documents cited in an Office Action in related application, SN 10/256,531, filed September 27, 2002 may be required. The Examiner's indulgence is requested, since the sole administrative assistant of the undersigned has just resigned and not yet been replaced. If an Information Disclosure Statement is required, it will be submitted next week.

This amendment leaves Claims 1-7 and 10-12 remaining in the application, all of which should now clearly be allowable. Claims 8, 9, 13 and 14 have been canceled.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted



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1/4

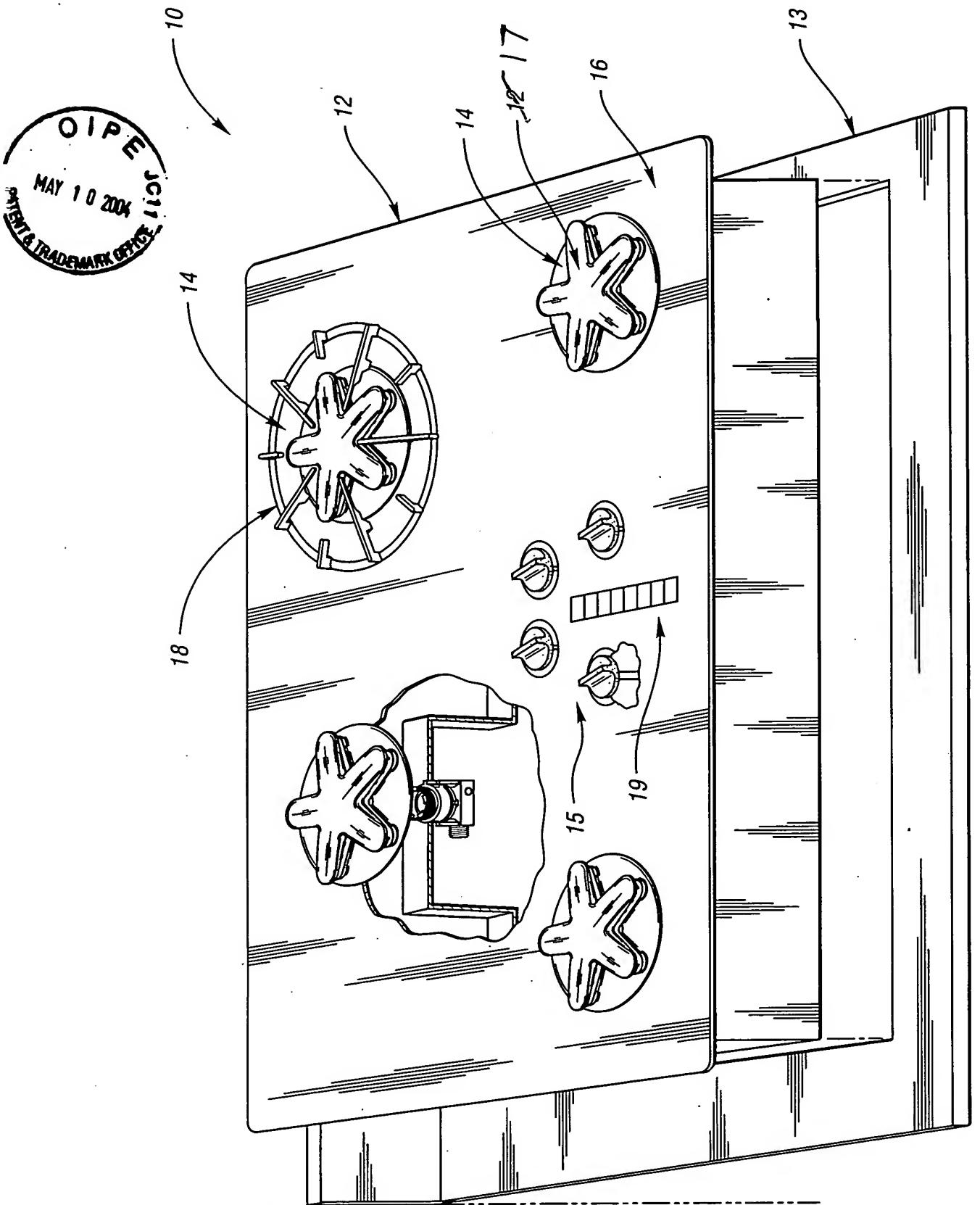
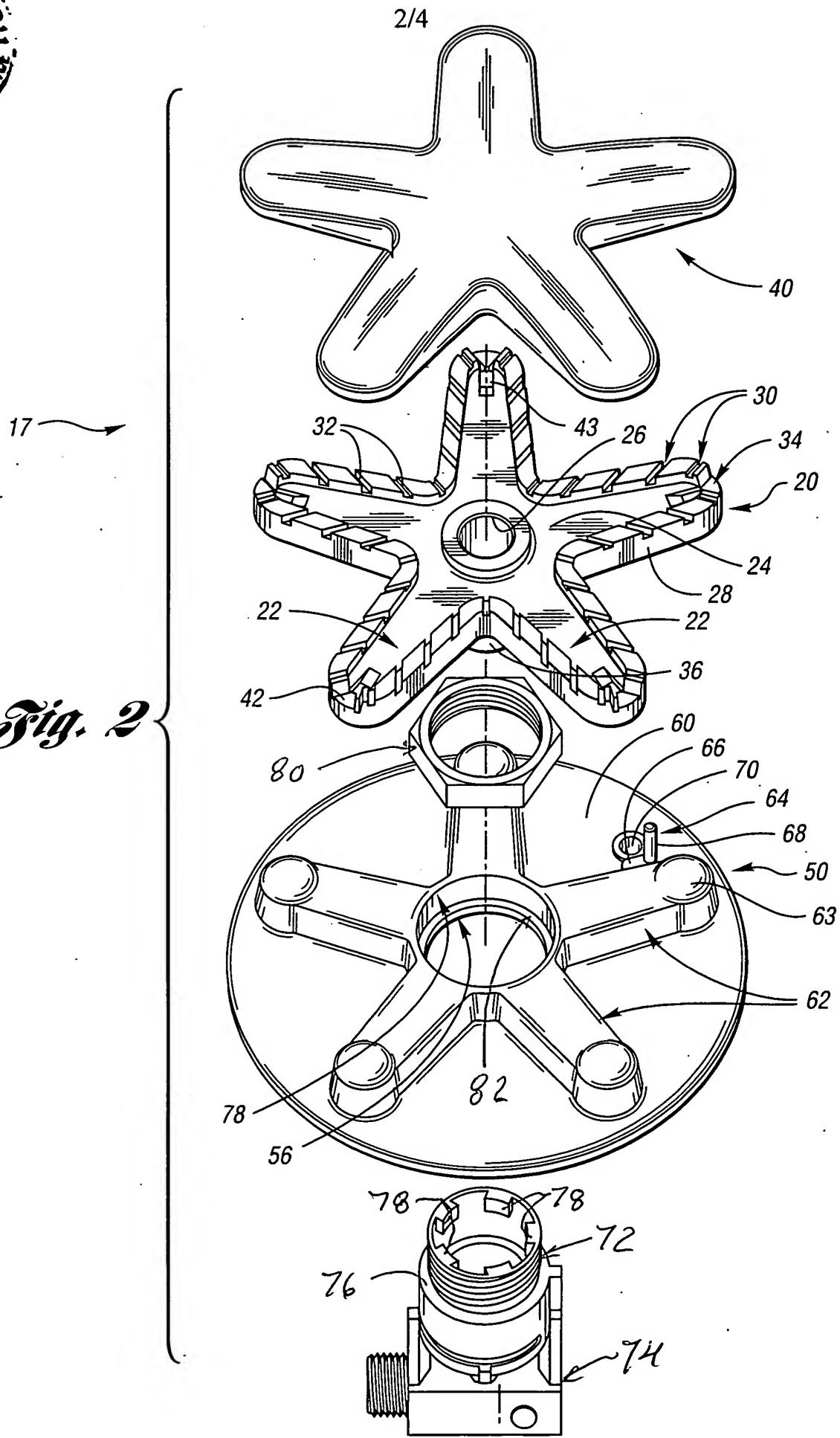


Fig. 1

*Fig. 2*



3/4

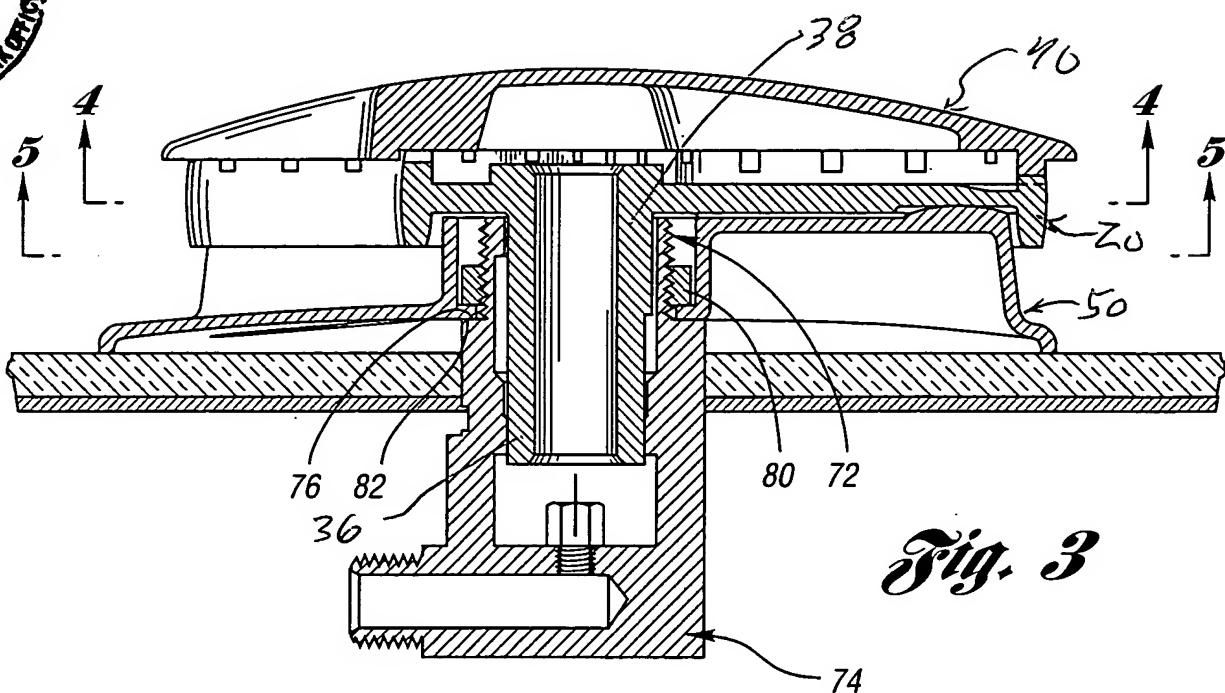


Fig. 3

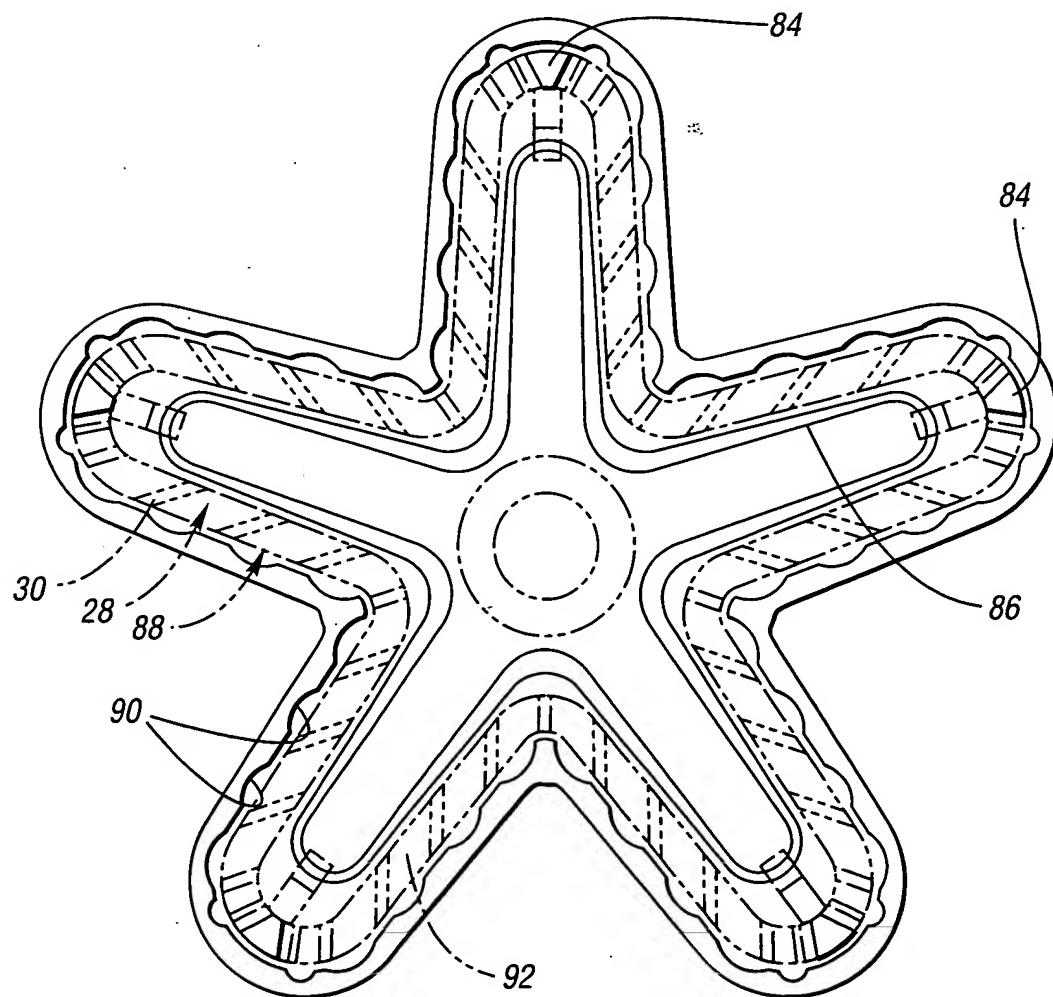


Fig. 4

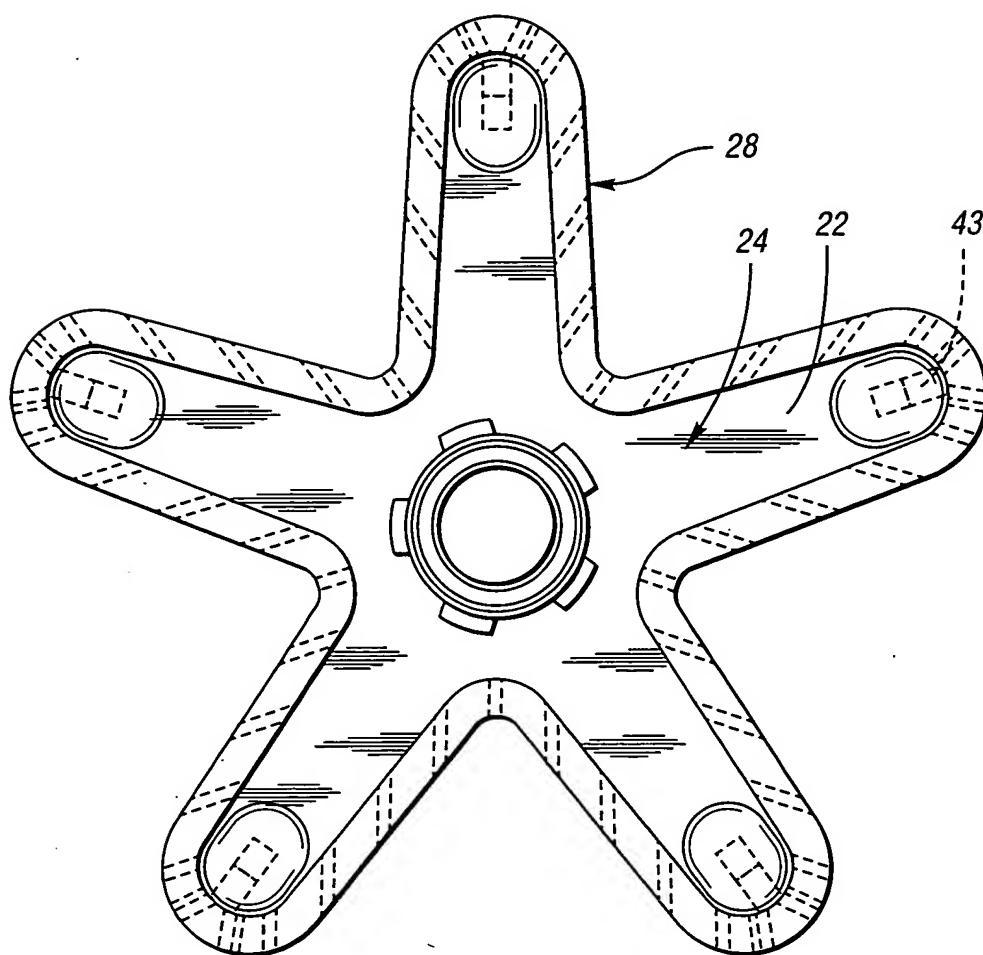


Fig. 5

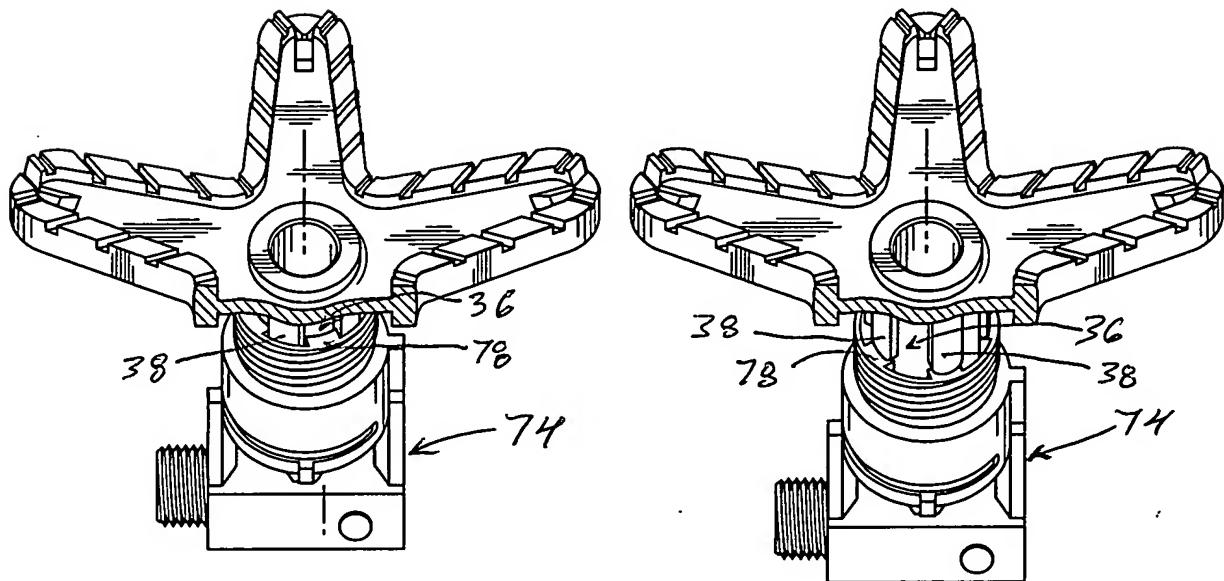


Fig. 6a

Fig. 6b